

Wayne Allard

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SENATOR ALLARD SECURES FUNDING TO COMPLETE CLEANUP AND CLOSURE AT ROCKY FLATS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado), member of the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, on Tuesday announced that he has secured funding for the completion of the U.S. Department of Energy's cleanup project at Rocky Flats outside of Denver. Since his election to the U.S. Senate in 1996, Senator Allard has worked to successfully roll back the target completion date for the cleanup of the former nuclear weapons facility from 2070 to 2006.

"The Subcommittee provided \$579.95 million to finish up what has been a massive undertaking," Senator Allard said. "This project, with all the challenges it has presented, turned out to be an historic accomplishment."

"I am proud to say that with this final piece of the financial puzzle in place, the cleanup of Rocky Flats will be completed on budget and ahead of schedule," Senator Allard said.

The final shipment of transuranic nuclear waste was shipped from the site in April of this year.

Rocky Flats is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and manufactured components for nuclear weapons for the nation's defense until 1992. The current mission of the plant is closure – environmental cleanup, waste management and decommissioning – by December 2006. The industrial complex of more than 100 buildings is located in the center of about nine square miles of undeveloped land 16 miles northwest of downtown Denver.

"When the cleanup is complete, Coloradans and people from around the country will be able to take pride in what has been done here: the cleanup and closure of the first former nuclear weapons facility in the United States," Senator Allard said.

Last month the Government Accountability Office (GAO) notified Senator Allard that it has started conducting an assessment of the cleanup project at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site, a former nuclear production facility. Senator Allard requested that the GAO perform such an assessment in November, 2004. The GAO has previously conducted assessments of the Rocky Flats closure project in 1999 and 2001 at Senator Allard's request.